SN. 10/764,884                          ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. CANO:026A

## IN THE CLAIMS

*The status of the claims as presently amended is as follows:*

1. (*Currently Amended*) An image forming apparatus for forming image of an original on a sheet, comprising:

a plurality of feeders ~~for feeding~~that feed sheets;

a memory unit ~~for storing~~that stores priorities between a plurality of sheet types other than sheet sizes and ~~for storing~~ stores sheet sizes and sheet types other than sheet sizes in association with said plurality of feeders;~~and~~

a selector ~~for selecting~~that selects one of said plurality of feeders to be used for a sheet feeding operation in accordance with at least one of the sheet sizes, the sheet types other than sheet sizes, ~~and~~or the priorities stored in said memory unit; and

a controller that controls the feeder selecting operation of said selector,

wherein said controller is operable to inhibit said selector from selecting another feeder that contains sheets of a sheet size different from a sheet size of sheets of the selected feeder, after selecting the one feeder, in both a first case where the another feeder contains sheets of a sheet type different from a sheet type of sheets of the selected feeder based on at least the priorities stored in said memory unit, and a second case where the another feeder contains sheets of a same sheet type as the sheet type of the sheets of the selected feeder based on at least the sheet types stored in said memory unit.

2. (*Canceled*)

3. (*Currently Amended*) An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an operating section through which a user carries out various settings related to the image forming apparatus, and wherein the sheet types other than sheet sizes stored in said memory unit are set through said operating section.

4. (*Currently Amended*) An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an operating section through which a user carries out various settings related to the image

3

SN. 10/764,884                                    ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. CANO:026A

forming apparatus, and wherein the priorities stored in said memory unit are set through said operating section.

5. *(Currently Amended)* An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a detector for detecting a size of an original, and wherein said selector selects one of said plurality of feeders to be used for the sheet feeding operation in accordance with the size of the original detected by said detector, the sheet sizes, the sheet types other than sheet sizes, ~~and~~or the priorities stored in said memory unit.

6. *(Previously presented)* An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said selector carries out selection of one of said plurality of feeders upon start of an image forming operation by said image forming apparatus.

7. *(Previously presented)* An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said selector carries out selection of one of said plurality of feeders when a feeder being used has run short of sheets during an image forming operation by said image forming apparatus.

8. *(Original)* An image forming apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said selector selects a feeder that contains sheets of the same type as the type of the sheet contained in the feeder which has run short of sheets.

9-11. *(Canceled)*

12. *(Currently Amended)* A method of controlling an image forming apparatus including a plurality of feeders ~~for feeding~~that feed sheets and ~~for forming images of originals on sheets~~an image forming unit, the method comprising:

a first step of storing sheet sizes in a memory unit in association with said plurality of feeders;

a second step of storing sheet types other than sheet sizes in said memory unit in

4

SN. 10/764,884                              ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. CANO:026A

association with said plurality of feeders;

a third step of storing priorities between the sheet types other than sheet sizes in said memory unit ; and

a fourth step of selecting one of said plurality of feeders to be used for a sheet feeding operation in accordance with at least one of the sheet sizes, the sheet types other than sheet sizes, andor the priorities stored in said memory unit; and

a fifth step of inhibiting a selection of another feeder that contains sheets of a sheet size different from a sheet size of sheets of the selected feeder, after selecting the one feeder, in both a first case where the another feeder contains sheets of a sheet type different from a sheet type of sheets of the selected feeder based on at least the priorities stored in said memory unit, and a second case where the another feeder contains sheets of a same sheet type as the sheet type of the sheets of the selected feeder based on at least the sheet types stored in said memory unit.

13. (*Previously presented*)  A method of controlling an image forming apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said image forming apparatus includes an operating section through which a user carries out various settings related to the image forming apparatus, the sheet types other than sheet sizes stored in said second step being set through said operating section.

14. (*Previously presented*)  A method of controlling an image forming apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said image forming apparatus includes an operating section on which a user carries out various settings related to the image forming apparatus, the priorities stored in said third step being set through said operating section.

15. (*Currently Amended*)  A method of controlling an image forming apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising a fifthsixth step of detecting a size of an original, and wherein said fourth step comprises selecting one of said plurality of feeders to be used for the sheet feeding operation in accordance with the size of the original detected in said fifth step, the sheet sizes stored in said first step, the sheet types other than sheet sizes stored in said second step, andor

5

SN. 10/764,884                                    ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. CANO:026A

the priorities stored in said third step.

16. (*Previously presented*)  A method of controlling an image forming apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said fourth step comprises carrying out selection of one of said plurality of feeders upon start of an image forming operation by said image forming apparatus.

17. (*Previously presented*)  A method of controlling an image forming apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said fourth step comprises carrying out selection of one of said plurality of feeders when a feeder being used has run short of sheets during an image forming operation by said image forming apparatus.

18. (*Previously presented*)  A method of controlling an image forming apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said fourth step comprises selecting a feeder that contains sheets of the same type as the type of the sheet contained in the feeder which has run short of sheets.

19-21. (*Canceled*)

22. (*Currently Amended*)  A storage medium storing a control program for controlling an image forming apparatus including a plurality of feeders for feedingthat feed sheets and for forming images of originals on sheetsan image forming unit, the storage medium being readable by the image forming apparatus, the control program comprising:
        a first code for storing sheet sizes in a memory unit in association with said plurality of feeders;
        a second code for storing sheet types other than sheet sizes in said memory unit in association with said plurality of feeders;
        a third code for storing priorities between the sheet types other than sheet sizes in said memory unit;-and
        a fourth code for selecting one of said plurality of feeders to be used for a sheet feeding operation in accordance with at least one of the sheet sizes, the sheet types other than sheet

6

sizes, andor the priorities stored in said memory unit; and

a fifth code for inhibiting a selection of another feeder that contains sheets of a sheet size different from a sheet size of sheets of the selected feeder, after selecting the one feeder, in both a first case where the another feeder contains sheets of a sheet type different from a sheet type of sheets of the selected feeder based on at least the priorities stored in said memory unit, and a second case where the another feeder contains sheets of a same sheet type as the sheet type of the sheets of the selected feeder based on at least the sheet types stored in said memory unit.

23. (*Canceled*)

24. (*Currently Amended*)  An image forming apparatus for forming an image of an original on a sheet, comprising:

an image forming unit;

a plurality of feeders for feedingthat contain sheets;

a memory for storingunit that stores data related to sheet types other than sheet sizes in association with the feeders;

a selector for selectingthat selects one of said plurality of feeders in accordance with the data related to sheet types other than sheet sizes stored in said memory unit; and

an operation panel for designating a designation allowing a change to the feeder that feeds a different type sheet in a case where the selected feeder has run out of sheets during an image forming operation,

a setting unit that performs a predetermined setting; and

a controller that controls a feeder selecting operation of said selector,

wherein said selector selects one of said plurality of feeders in accordance with the designation of said operation panelanother feeder that contains sheets of a same type as a sheet type of sheets of the selected feeder, based on the data related to sheet types stored in said memory unit, when the selected feeder has run short of sheets during an image forming operation, and

7

wherein said controller is operable, when the predetermined setting is performed by said setting unit, to permit said selector to select another feeder that contains sheets of a different type from a sheet type of the sheets of the selected feeder when the selected feeder has run short of sheets during an image forming operation and there is no other feeder that contains sheets of the same type as the sheet type of the sheets of the selected feeder.

25. (*Currently Amended*) An image forming apparatus ~~for forming an image on a sheet,~~ comprising:

a plurality of feeders ~~for feeding~~that contain sheets;

a memory ~~for storing~~unit that stores at least one of first data related to priorities between a plurality of sheet types other than sheet sizes and ~~for storing~~second data related to sheet types other than sheet sizes in association with said plurality of feeders; ~~and~~

a selector ~~for selecting~~that selects one of said plurality of feeders ~~to be used for a sheet feeding operation in accordance with the sheet types and the priorities and~~based on at least one of the first data or the second data stored in said memory unit; and

a controller that controls a feeder selecting operation of said selector,

wherein said controller is operable to inhibit said selector from selecting another feeder that contains sheets of a sheet size different from a sheet size of sheets of the selected feeder, after selecting the one feeder, in both a first case where the another feeder contains sheets of a sheet type different from a sheet type of sheets of the selected feeder based on at least the first data, and a second case where the another feeder contains sheets of a same sheet type as the sheet type of the sheets of the selected feeder based on at least the second data.

26. (*Currently Amended*) An image forming apparatus ~~for forming an image on a sheet,~~ comprising:

~~a plurality of feeders for feeding sheets;~~

~~a memory for storing sheet types other than sheet sizes in association with the feeders;~~ ~~and~~

~~a selector for selecting one of said plurality of feeders in accordance with the sheet~~

8

SN. 10/764,884 ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. CANO:026A

~~types stored in said memory,~~

~~wherein said selector selects one of said plurality of feeders in accordance with a~~
~~designation allowing a change to the feeder that feeds a different type sheet in a case where~~
~~the selected feeder has run out of sheets during an image forming operation~~

a plurality of sheet storage units that store sheets, including at least a first storage unit
for storing sheets of a first size and a first type, and a second storage unit;

an image forming unit that performs an image forming operation by using at least one of
said plurality of storage units;

an operation selector that selects one of a first operation or a second operation; and

a controller that controls use of said plurality of sheet storage units based on the one of
the first operation or the second operation selected by said operation selector,

wherein said controller is operable, when the first operation is selected, to inhibit use of
said second storage unit after said first storage unit has been used, when said second storage
unit is for storing sheets of a second type but stores sheets of the first size, and operable, when
the second operation is selected, to permit use of said second storage unit after said first
storage unit has been used, when said second storage unit is for storing sheets of the second
type but stores sheets of the first size.


27. (Canceled)


28. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus for forming an image on a sheet,
comprising:

a plurality of feeders for feeding sheets;

a memory for storing sheet types other than sheet sizes in association with the feeders;
and

a selector for selecting one of said plurality of feeders in accordance with the sheet
types stored in said memory,

wherein said selector selects one of said plurality of feeders in accordance with a
designation allowing a change to the feeder that feeds a different type sheet in a case where

9

the selected feeder has run out of sheets during an image forming operation,

wherein said selector selects the feeder containing the sheets of a first type in a case where the designation is not designated, and wherein said selector selects among the feeder containing the sheets of the first type and the feeder containing sheets of a second type in a case where the designation is designated.

29. (*Currently Amended*) An image forming apparatus ~~for forming an image on a sheet,~~ comprising:

~~a plurality of feeders for feeding sheets;~~

~~a memory for storing sheet sizes and sheet types in association with the feeders;~~

~~a selector for selecting one of said plurality of feeders in accordance with the sheet sizes and the sheet types stored in said memory; and~~

~~an operation panel for designating a designation allowing a change to the feeder that feeds a different type sheet in a case where the selected feeder has run short of sheets during an image forming operation,~~

~~wherein said selector selects one of said plurality of feeders in accordance with the designation of said operation panel~~

a plurality of storage units that store sheets, including at least a first storage unit for storing sheets of a first size and a first type, and a second storage unit;

an image forming unit that performs an image forming operation by using at least one of said plurality of storage units; and

a controller that controls use of said plurality of sheet storage units,

wherein said controller permits use of said second storage unit after said first storage unit has been used, when said second storage unit stores sheets of the first size and the first type, and inhibits use of said second storage unit after said first storage unit has been used, in both a first case where said second storage unit stores sheets of the first size and a second type, and a second case where said second storage unit stores sheets of a second size and the first type.

10

SN. 10/764,884 ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. CANO:026A

30. (*Previously Presented*) An image forming apparatus for forming an image on a sheet, comprising:

a plurality of feeders for feeding sheets;

a memory for storing sheet sizes and sheet types in association with the feeders; and

a selector for selecting one of said plurality of feeders in accordance with the sheet sizes and the sheet types stored in said memory,

wherein, when the selected feeder runs short of sheets in a case where a designation allowing a change to the feeder that feeds a different type sheet is designated, said selector selects the other feeder that contains sheets of the same size and a sheet type different from the sheet type of sheets that have been fed until then, if there is no feeder that contains sheets of the same size and the same type as the sheet size and the sheet type of sheets that have been fed until then.

31. (*Previously Presented*) An image forming apparatus according to claim 30, wherein, when the selected feeder runs short of sheets in a case where said designation is not designated, a feeding operation of said plurality of feeders is stopped, if there is no feeder that contains sheets of the same size and the same type as the sheet size and the sheet type of sheets that have been fed until then.

32. (*Currently Amended*) An image forming apparatus according to claim 31, wherein a message indicating a sheet exhaustion is displayed on [[said]]an operation panel when the feeding operation of said plurality of feeders is stopped.

33. (*Previously Presented*) An image forming apparatus according to claim 30, wherein, when the selected feeder runs short of sheets, said selector selects the other feeder that contains sheets of the same size and the same type as the sheet size and the sheet type of sheets that have been fed until then.

34. (*Previously Presented*) An image forming apparatus according to claim 30, further

11

comprising an operation panel for designating the designation allowing a change to the feeder that feeds a different type sheet in a case where the selected feeder has run short of sheets during an image forming operation.

35. (New) A method of controlling an image forming apparatus having an image forming unit, and a plurality of feeders that contain sheets, comprising:

causing said image forming apparatus to select one of said plurality of contain units in accordance with data related to sheet types other than sheet sizes stored in association with said plurality of feeders;

causing said image forming apparatus to select another feeder that contains sheets of a same type as a sheet type of sheets of the selected feeder, based on the data related to sheet types when the selected feeder has run short of sheets during an image forming operation; and

permitting said image forming apparatus to select another feeder that contains sheets of a different type from a sheet type of the sheets of the selected feeder when the selected feeder has run short of sheets during an image forming operation and there is no other feeder that contains sheets of the same type as the sheet type of the sheets of the selected feeder, when a predetermined setting is performed.

36. (New) A method of controlling an image forming apparatus having an image forming unit, and a plurality of feeders that contain sheets, comprising the steps of:

causing said image forming apparatus to select one of said plurality of feeders based on at least one of first data related to priorities between a plurality of sheet types other than sheet sizes or second data related to sheet types other than sheet sizes, the first data and the second date being stored in association with said plurality of feeders; and

inhibiting selection of another feeder that contains sheets of a sheet size different from a sheet size of sheets of the selected feeder, after selecting the one feeder, in both a first case where the another feeder contains sheets of a sheet type different from a sheet type of sheets of the selected feeder and the selection is based on at least the first data, and a second case where the another feeder contains sheets of a same sheet type as the sheet type of the sheets

12

of the selected feeder and the selection is based on at least the second data.

37. (*New*)  A method of controlling an image forming apparatus a plurality of sheet storage units that store sheets, including at least a first storage unit for storing sheets of a first size and a first type, and a second storage unit, and an image forming unit that performs an image forming operation by using at least one of said plurality of storage units, comprising the steps of:

selecting one of a first operation or a second operation;

inhibiting use of said second storage unit after said first storage unit has been used when said second storage unit is for storing sheets of a second type but stores sheets of the first size, when the first operation is selected; and

permitting use of said second storage unit after said first storage unit has been used, when said second storage unit is for storing sheets of the second type but stores sheets of the first size, when the second operation is selected.

38. (*New*)  A method of controlling an image forming apparatus having a plurality of storage units that store sheets, including at least a first storage unit for storing sheets of a first size and a first type, and a second storage unit, and an image forming unit that performs an image forming operation by using at least one of said plurality of storage units, comprising the steps of:

permitting use of said second storage unit after said first storage unit has been used, when said second storage unit stores sheets of the first size and the first type; and

inhibiting use of said second storage unit after said first storage unit has been used, in both a first case where said second storage unit stores sheets of the first size and a second type, and a second case where said second storage unit stores sheets of a second size and the first type.

39. (*New*)  A method of controlling an image forming apparatus according to claim 35, wherein:

said image forming apparatus is connected to a host computer and includes a scanner unit and a user interface unit;

said image forming unit is for performing an image forming operation based on at least

13

one of data from said scanner unit or data from said host computer; and

    said image forming apparatus is for performing an operation based on at least an instruction input via said user interface unit of said image forming apparatus.

40. (*New*)  A method of controlling an image forming apparatus according to claim 35, wherein:

    said image forming apparatus is connected to a host computer having a user interface unit and includes a scanner unit;

    said image forming unit is for performing an image forming operation based on at least one of data from said scanner unit or data from said host computer; and

    said image forming apparatus is for performing an operation based on at least an instruction input via said user interface unit of said host computer.

41. (*New*)  A method of controlling an image forming apparatus according to claim 36, wherein:

    said image forming apparatus is connected to a host computer and includes a scanner unit and a user interface unit;

    said image forming unit is for performing an image forming operation based on at least one of data from said scanner unit or data from said host computer; and

    said image forming apparatus is for performing an operation based on at least an instruction input via said user interface unit of said image forming apparatus.

42. (*New*)  A method of controlling an image forming apparatus according to claim 36, wherein:

    said image forming apparatus is connected to a host computer having a user interface unit and includes a scanner unit;

    said image forming unit is for performing an image forming operation based on at least one of data from said scanner unit or data from said host computer; and

    said image forming apparatus is for performing an operation based on at least an instruction input via said user interface unit of said host computer.

43. (*New*)  A method of controlling an image forming apparatus according to claim 37, wherein:

14

said image forming apparatus is connected to a host computer and includes a scanner unit and a user interface unit;

said image forming unit is for performing an image forming operation based on at least one of data from said scanner unit or data from said host computer; and

said image forming apparatus is for performing an operation based on at least an instruction input via said user interface unit of said image forming apparatus.

44. (*New*)  A method of controlling an image forming apparatus according to claim 37, wherein:

said image forming apparatus is connected to a host computer having a user interface unit and includes a scanner unit;

said image forming unit is for performing an image forming operation based on at least one of data from said scanner unit or data from said host computer; and

said image forming apparatus is for performing an operation based on at least an instruction input via said user interface unit of said host computer.

45. (*New*)  A method of controlling an image forming apparatus according to claim 38, wherein:

said image forming apparatus is connected to a host computer and includes a scanner unit and a user interface unit;

said image forming unit is for performing an image forming operation based on at least one of data from said scanner unit or data from said host computer; and

said image forming apparatus is for performing an operation based on at least an instruction input via said user interface unit of said image forming apparatus.

46. (*New*)  A method of controlling an image forming apparatus according to claim 38, wherein:

said image forming apparatus is connected to a host computer having a user interface unit and includes a scanner unit;

said image forming unit is for performing an image forming operation based on at least one of data from said scanner unit or data from said host computer; and

said image forming apparatus is for performing an operation based on at least an

15

SN. 10/764,884                                    ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. CANO:026A

instruction input via said user interface unit of said host computer.

·16